



Leading Quality Addiction Treatment in the Northern Rockies

EXHIBIT 10
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HB 83

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 83

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Chief Operations Officer

There is no question that prescription drug abuse is our newest drug epidemic in our country and here in Montana. Rimrock Foundation, Montana's oldest and largest addiction treatment center has seen a more than 50% increase in just this past year of people seeking treatment for prescription drug abuse. This includes youth as well as adults.

One path into addiction for many people is chronic pain syndromes. In the quest for relief from pain, the patient becomes addicted to opiates and other pain killers. Once physical tolerance to these drugs occurs, patients and non patients must have ever increasing doses. This is why we see people doctor shopping – to acquire the volume of pain killers they need.

A major strategy to reduce access and supply, both essential to any drug enforcement, is to create a registry program so that pharmacists and pharmacies can talk to each other and to health care providers. We need to know when addicts are doctor shopping and physicians need to know most of all.

We urge you to look favorably on this important effort to reduce the abuse of opiates and other pain relieving substances.